THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) There is no scheme for rehabilitating people living in villages along the borders of the country to other safer places. However, in times of heightened tension along the border, the population living in such areas tend to temporarily migrate to safer places. In such cases the concerned States Government considers undertaking such relief measures as are necessary.

ISI plan to attack Jammu and Kashmir press

1555. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI of Pakistan has formulated a plan to attack the Jammu and Kashmir press (Linguistic Press);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all these plans have been prepared to affect the elections by intimidating the Media and the people keeping in view the forthcoming elections of assembly; and

(d) if so, what arrangements have been made by Government so far to deal with such situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Government have no specific report about this. However some media men in the State of J and K were threatened, manhandled and even shot at in the recent past by various separatist/terrorist elements as they attempted coverage of their activities. Further, because the Govt. of Pakistan does not favour holding of free and fair polls in the State of J and K, Pak ISI is making efforts to disrupt the peaceful conduct of Assembly elections in J and K.

(d) The State authorities of J and K have recently been advised in the context of forthcoming Assembly election in the State to review the assessment of threat to various categories of persons including media personnel and to provide them necessary security, so that they are able to function freely without fear of terrorists or secessionists threats. Such a review of the assessments have recently been carried out by the State authorities following which many media personnel have been provided with security cover as deemed to be appropriate by the competent authorities.